

TRANSITION CHECKLIST AND TIMELINE FOR MEDICAL CARE PROVIDERS

DIVISION OF SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

Instructions: To assist adolescent patients and their families in the transition process the following checklist and timeline should be applied as appropriate to each adolescent patient. The timeline should be modified as developmentally appropriate for each individual.

MEDICAL CARE	Ages 11-13	Ages 14-16	Ages 17-19	Ages 20-22			
Meet privately with the adolescent for part of the office visit							
Encourage the adolescent to assume increasing responsibility for his/her medical care management							
 Assure the adolescent understands his/her health condition and medications. 							
 Encourage the adolescent to ask questions during each office visit and to make his/her appointments. 							
 Provide parents with the opportunity to discuss their feelings about loss of control, concerns about the future and increasing the adolescent's independence. 							
 Send copies of reports, letters and tests to the adolescent and family. 							
 Encourage the adolescent to maintain a personal health record book to keep track of medical appointments, health information, history, medications, treatments and medical care providers. 							
Provide anticipatory guidance							
 Nutrition and fitness 							
 Sexuality and relationships 							
 Substance abuse and smoking 							
Genetic risks							
Assess the adolescent's and the family's readiness for tran	sfer to an a	adult health	care prov	ider			
 Initiate discussion about transfer to an adult health care provider. 							
 Discuss choices for adult care and assist in identifying possible care providers. 							
 Encourage patient to meet and interview adult providers. 							
 Initiate communication with the adult provider that the family and adolescent has selected. 							
Implement the transfer to an adult care provider							
 Transfer medical records. 							
 Discuss nuances of care with the adult provider. 							
 Follow-up after the transfer. 							

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LEGAL ISSUES	Ages 11-13	Ages 14-16	Ages 17-19	Ages 20-22
Assess the adolescent's/young adult's ability to make independent decisions regarding medical care, finances and other adult concerns for determining whether there is a need for guardianship/conservatorship.				
 Initiate referral for assessment of competence if needed. 				
Provide medical documentation.				
Follow-up on the process with the family.				
EDUCATION				
 Advise families that at age 18 a student will have the right to make all decisions regarding his/her education unless other legal actions have been taken. 				
 Encourage the adolescent to participate in his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP) planning process and/or 504 Plan. Make sure the adolescent and family are aware of the federal law regarding transition planning at age 14 for students with IEP/504 Plans. 				
Discuss with the adolescent plans for further education beyond high school.				
EMPLOYMENT				
 Initiate discussion of different routes to employment such as higher education, technical training or supported employment. 				
 Encourage the adolescent and family to explore community vocational opportunities and to become familiar with vocational services, even if further education is planned. 				
 Encourage the adolescent and family to contact local and state agencies involved in employment services and financial support of work incentives. 				
RECREATION				
Discuss in-home and community recreation options.				
 Help families develop strategies to foster friendships and avoid social isolation. 				
 Share health care information that may affect the adolescent's ability to participate in recreational activities. 				

Adapted from the Institute for Community Inclusion at Children's Hospital, Boston: Provider Transition Checklist and Timeline